

GILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 2, 2014

INFORMATIONAL STATEMENT FROM THE GILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT


Students in English classes at Gilford High School were assigned the novel, *Nineteen Minutes*, by Jodi Picoult this past Monday, April 28, 2014.

The novel is based on a school shooting incident as well as related issues of bullying and violence. It is set in a fictional New Hampshire high school and has been a reading selection available to Gilford High School staff since 2007. The novel has thematic importance. It contains depictions of physical violence in public schools and an incident of sexual violence.

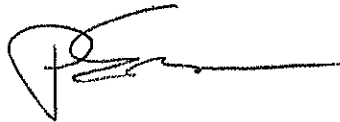
Gilford School District policies IGE, IJ, IJA, and KEC refer to the procedures regarding controversial material. Parents are directed to these policies should there be any concerns about the appropriateness of class materials and their children. These can be found at the district website, www.sau73.org

In past years, use of *Nineteen Minutes* included notification sent home to parents for approval. That procedure was not followed this past Monday. This coming Monday, May 5, 2014, this notification will be sent home to all students who are currently assigned the book.

All school materials, class assignments, and expectations are open to parents, and policies are in place to address any concerns. The Gilford School District will continue to comply with these policies and review their application on a regular basis.



Kent Hemingway
Superintendent of Schools



Peter Sawyer
Principal, Gilford High School



Sue Allen
Chair, Gilford School Board